

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A car navigation apparatus for searching facilities in a vicinity of an intersection which exists on a route comprising:

a map data acquiring ~~means~~ unit for acquiring map data including road data, intersection information, and facility information;

a current position detecting ~~means~~ unit for detecting a current position of a car;

a route searching ~~means~~ unit for searching for a route to a destination based on the map data acquired by said map data acquiring ~~means~~ unit;

an intersection searching ~~means~~ unit for searching intersections in a vicinity of the current position from among intersections which exist on the route between the current position and the destination ~~searched by said route searching means and which exists between the current position detected by said current position detecting means and the destination~~;

an intersection name outputting ~~means~~ unit for outputting intersection names ~~given to which identify~~ the intersections searched by said intersection searching ~~means~~ unit, in order to allow a user to designate at least one of the intersection names;

an intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit for selecting an intersection by specifying an intersection name designated by the user ~~outputted by said intersection name outputting means~~;

a facility searching ~~means~~ unit for searching for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection selected by said intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit through the map data acquired by said map data acquiring ~~means~~ unit; and

a facility name outputting ~~means~~ unit for outputting facility names ~~given to which identify~~ the facilities searched by said facility searching ~~means~~ unit;

~~a facility selecting means for selecting a facility by specifying a facility name outputted by said facility name outputting means; and~~

~~a facility information outputting means for extracting facility information about the facility selected by said facility selecting means from the map data acquired by said map data acquiring means, and for outputting the facility information.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said apparatus includes a facility searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit for setting facility searching conditions for specifying facilities which are a target to be searched, and the facility searching ~~means~~ unit searches for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection selected by the intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit from the map data acquired by said map data acquiring ~~means~~ unit according to the facility searching conditions set by said facility searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the facility searching conditions set by the searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit include a distance from the intersection selected by the intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit or a traveling time required to travel from the intersection.

4. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the facility searching conditions set by the searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit include a restriction imposed on directions in which the car can go out of the intersection selected by the intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit.

5. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the facility searching conditions set by the searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit include types of facilities or functions provided by facilities.

6. (Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the intersection selecting ~~means~~ unit and the facility selecting ~~means~~ unit are provided with a key, a remote controller, a touch panel, or a voice recognition ~~means~~ device for specifying an intersection name outputted by the facility name outputting ~~means~~ unit and a facility name outputted by the facility name outputting ~~means~~ unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said apparatus has an intersection searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit for setting intersection search conditions for specifying intersections which are a target to be searched, and the intersection searching ~~means~~ unit searches for intersections in a vicinity of the current position ~~through~~ from among intersections which exists on the route between the current position and the destination ~~searched by the route searching means and which exists between the current position detected by the current position detecting and the destination~~ according to the intersection searching conditions set by said intersection searching condition setting ~~means~~ unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said apparatus includes an angle sensor for detecting a traveling direction of the car, and an expected-route-to-be-followed determining ~~means~~ unit for determining an expected route to be followed by the car in case that the destination is not designated, based on the traveling direction detected by said angle sensor and the map data acquired by the map data acquiring ~~means~~ unit, and the intersection searching ~~means~~ unit searches for intersections in a vicinity of the current position through intersections which exist on the expected route to be followed determined by said expected-route-to-be-followed determining ~~means~~ unit when no route is searched for by the route searching ~~means~~ unit.

9. (New) The car navigation apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising;
a facility selecting unit for selecting a facility by specifying a facility name outputted by said facility name outputting unit; and
a facility information outputting unit for extracting facility information about the facility selected by said facility selecting unit from the map data acquired by said map data acquiring unit, and for outputting the facility information.

10. (New) A car navigation method, implemented using a car navigation apparatus, for searching facilities in a vicinity of an intersection which exists on a route comprising:
detecting a current position of a car;

determining a route to a destination based on map data including road data, intersection information and facility information, or an expected route to be followed by the car from the current position based on a traveling direction of the car and the map data;

searching intersections in a vicinity of the current position from among intersections which exist on the route between the current position and the destination or the expected route;

outputting intersection names which identify the intersections in a vicinity of the current position, in order to allow an user to designate at least one of the intersection names;

selecting an intersection by specifying an intersection name designated by the user;

searching for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection designated by the user by referring to the map data; and

outputting facility names which identify the facilities.

11. (New) The car navigation method according to claim 10, characterized in that the facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection are searched according to a facility searching conditions specifying facilities to be searched designated by the user.

12. (New) The car navigation method according to claim 11, characterized in that the facility searching conditions includes at least one of a distance from the intersection, a direction in which the car is allowed to go from the intersection and types of facilities and functions provided by facilities.

13. (New) The car navigation method according to claim 10, characterized in that the intersections in a vicinity of the current position are searched according to intersection search conditions specifying intersections to be searched designated by the user.